

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 211216Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7259

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10661

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA  
DTD JUL 19, 1976 REPTD TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 1246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: P. K. DAVE ON THE BRAHMIN ISSUE

REF: NEW DELHI 10357

1. IN AN INFORMAL TALK AT THE MADRAS PRESS CLUB JULY 16 ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR P. K. DAVE WAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY BY A REPORTER HOW HE WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE LARGE NUMBER OF BRAHMINS BEING APPOINTED UNDER PRESIDENT'S RULE IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY BPAO C. W. LASALLE, WHO WAS PRESENT, DAVE, WHO HAD FIELDDED ALL QUESTIONS UP TO THIS POINT WITH A CASUAL GRACE AND/OR HUMOR, CAME CLOSE TO LOSING HIS TEMPER WHEN THE QUESTION WAS ASKED. HE APPEARED TO RECOVER HIS POISE, HOWEVER, AND GAVE WHAT WE TAKE TO BE HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO THE BRAHMIN/ANTI-BRAHMIN QUESTION.

2. DAVE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN "BORN A BRAHMIN BUT NOT BRED A BRAHMIN." NEVER IN HIS PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE WITH THE GOI HAD HE EXPERIENCED "THESE KINDS OF CONCERNS," AND THESE "CLASS DISTINCTIONS" SEEMED TO BE A PROBLEM ONLY IN TAMIL NADU. ANOTHER REPORTER TRIED TO PRESS THE ISSUE BY SAYING THAT THIS WAS A  
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"PUBLIC CONCERN," BUT DAVE SIMPLY REFUSED TO REPLY.

3. COMMENT: WE WOULD GUESS THAT DAVE PERSONALLY IS IRRITATED BY THIS ISSUE WHICH SEEMS PECULIAR TO TAMIL NADU. CERTAINLY THERE IS NO ANTI-BRAHMINISM IN KERALA, KARNATAKA OR ANDHRA PRADESH. TO A MAN SINCERELY TRYING TO DO A JOB, AS DAVE APPEARS TO BE DOING, POLITICIZING THE CASTE ISSUE COULD BE FRUSTRATING. NOT SURPRISINGLY, DAVE'S COMMENTS ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE WERE NOT CARRIED IN THE PRESS.

4. LASALLE REPORTS THAT DAVE WAS VISIBLY TIRED AT THE MEETING BUT HE HANDLED HIMSELF WITH IMPRESSIVE ABILITY THROUGHOUT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ANTI-BRHMEN ISSUE. HE SAID AT ONE POINT THAT HE "WOULD AGREE THAT, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INFORMATION, THE PRESS RIGHT NOW IS AN UNDERPRIVILEGED CLASS," GETTING A BIG LAUGH FROM HIS AUDIENCE. HE WAS NOTICEABLY MODEST IN MAKING CLAIMS FOR THE PRESENT STATE ADMINISTRATION, LASALLE STATES, AND DECLINED TO MAKE ANY PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE. HE CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING OR IN ANY WAY DENIGRATING THE FORMER DMK GOVERNMENT OR THE DMK PARTY, EVEN THOUGH HE WENT OFF THE RECORD SEVERAL TIMES. END COMMENT.

MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE

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